

# BARBITURATES



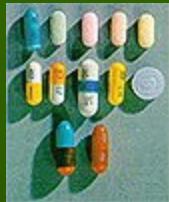
*“The barbiturate addict  
presents a shocking spectacle.  
He cannot coordinate, he  
stammers, falls off bar stools,  
goes to sleep in the middle of  
sentences, food drops out of his  
mouth. He is confused,  
quarrelsome and stupid.”*

*-- William Burroughs*

# **BARBITURATES CONTENT**

- ◆ ***What Are Barbiturates?***
  - ◆ *History*
  - ◆ *How Are They Taken?*
  - ◆ *Why Are They Used?*
- ◆ ***What are the Effects?***
  - ◆ *Physical Damage*
  - ◆ *Psychological Damage*
- ◆ ***Use in the United States***
- ◆ ***Testing for Barbiturates***
- ◆ ***Useful Links***





## ***WHAT ARE BARBITURATES?***

- *Barbiturates are prescription sedatives or tranquilizers.*
- *Barbiturates are multi-colored pills and tablets and are classified as Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants that cause drowsiness.*
- *Barbiturates are more commonly*



# STREET NAMES

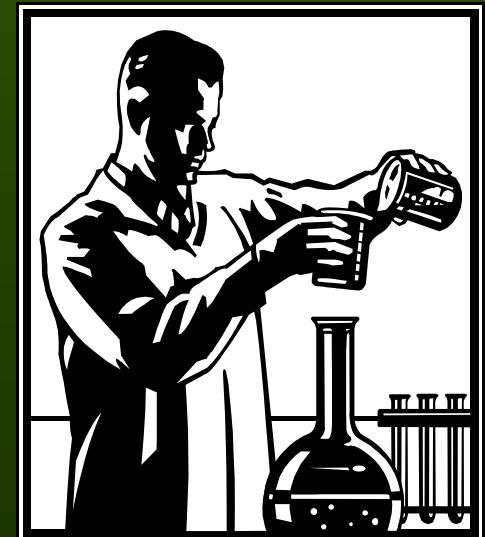


*Barbiturates are identified on the street by the color of the pill and can be called:*

- *Barbs*
- *Downers*
- *Sleepers*
- *Stumblers*
- *Rainbows*
- *Blue Heavens*
- *Yellow Jackets*
- *Red Devils*
- *Tootsies*
- *Red Dolls*

# *HISTORY of BARBITURATES*

- *1863 - Barbiturates were developed by Adolph von Bayer, famous for developing aspirin, and heroin.*
- *1903 - Barbiturates were first used in medical practices. Barbital (barbitone), was used as a sedative for the chronically nervous.*



# ***HISTORY of BARBITURATES***

## ***(cont)***

***Since 1903:***

- *Over 2,000 barbiturates have been manufactured using Bayer's original formula.*
- *So widely used at first that they were nicknamed "wonder drugs".*
- *Use has been drastically reduced due to:*
  - *The introduction of sedative drugs prescribed to reduce anxiety such as Valium and Xanax.*
  - *The dangerous side effects that are associated with barbiturate use.*



# ***HOW ARE THEY KEN?***

***Barbiturates can be ingested  
in a variety of ways:***

- 1)Orally - In a pill or liquid form.***
- 2)Intravenously - Injected with  
the use of a hypodermic needle:***
  - Injected into the bloodstream or  
muscle (MAINLINING)***
  - Injected under the skin (SKIN  
POPPING)***
- 3)Inserted into the body via  
suppository.***



# ***WHY ARE THEY USED?***

- ***Barbiturates are most often consumed to get "high".***
- ***Barbiturates are used by drug users to treat the unpleasant effects of other drugs such as:***
  - ▶ ***Cocaine***
  - ▶ ***Methamphetamine***
  - ▶ ***Ecstasy***
- ***Barbiturates are prescribed to treat:***
  - ▶ ***Anxiety***
  - ▶ ***Depression***
  - ▶ ***Epilepsy***
  - ▶ ***Insomnia***
  - ▶ ***Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Withdrawal***



# ***PHYSICAL EFFECTS***

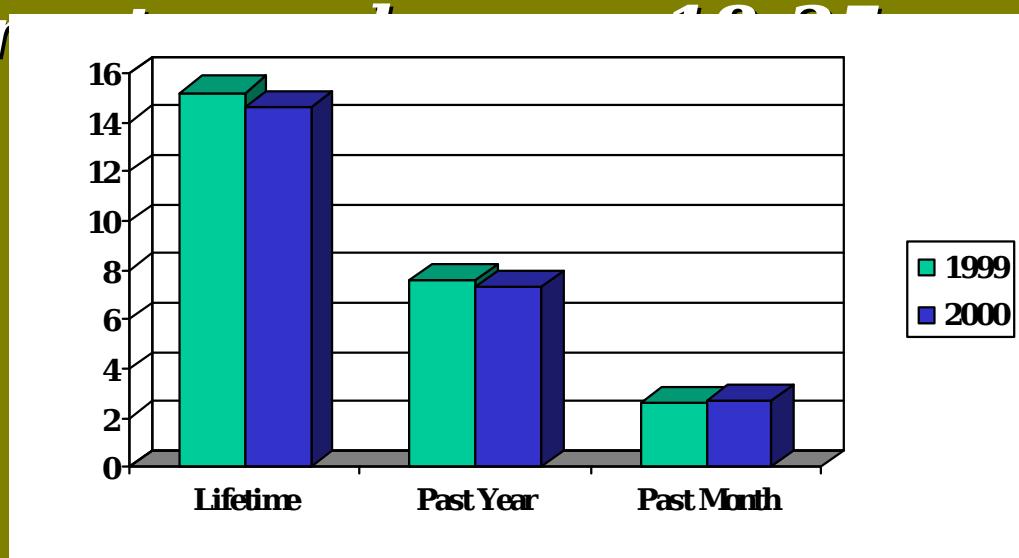
- » *Sleepiness*
- » *Dizziness*
- » *Nausea*
- » *Slurred Speech*
- » *Impaired Memory*
- » *Impaired Judgment*
- » *Vertigo*
- » *Impotence*
- » *Lack of Motivation*
- » *Reduced Sex Drive*
- » *Irregular Menstruation*
- » *Breathing Disorders*
- » *Decreased Blood Pressure*

# ***PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS***

- *Mild Euphoria*
- *Disinhibition*
- *Anxiety Relief*
- *Sleepiness*
- *Memory Impairment*
- *Loss of Coordination*
- *Increased Irritability*
- *Severe Paranoia*
- *Suicidal Thoughts*

# **BARBITURATE USE IN THE UNITED STATES**

*Barbiturate use in the United States was stable between 1999 and 2000 among people age 18-25.*



*Percentage of People Age 18-25 Reporting Barbiturate Use, 1999-2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse*

# ***BARBITURATE TESTING IN THE ARMY***

- *Barbiturates can be detected in urine up to 2-3 days after ingestion.*
- *The Army tests the following barbiturates on a rotational schedule:*
  - *Butabital*
  - *Phenobarbital*
  - *Secobarbitol*

# ***ADDITIONAL RESOURCES***

- [\*http://www.cananews.com/undcp/drugs6.htm\*](http://www.cananews.com/undcp/drugs6.htm)
- [\*http://www.drugfreenc.org/html/barbituates.html\*](http://www.drugfreenc.org/html/barbituates.html)
- [\*http://www.health.org\*](http://www.health.org)
- [\*http://espn.go.com/special/s/drugsandsports/barbs.html\*](http://espn.go.com/special/s/drugsandsports/barbs.html)
- [\*http://www.addictions.org/downers.htm\*](http://www.addictions.org/downers.htm)
- [\*http://www.drugfreeworkplace.com/drugsofabuse/\*](http://www.drugfreeworkplace.com/drugsofabuse/)



# UNITED STATES ARMY CENTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS



For more Information Contact:  
**ACSAP**

E-mail: [upl.acsap@usadaoa-emh1.army.mil](mailto:upl.acsap@usadaoa-emh1.army.mil)